

Submitter: Joanne Skirving
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Judiciary
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4145

Chair Kropf, Vice-Chair Chotzen, and Vice-Chair Wallan,
Re: HB 4145, Feb. 2, 2026

Ceasefire Oregon is a non-profit 501(c)4 organization. Since 1994, we have worked to prevent gun violence by advocating for reasonable, effective gun safety laws. We educate Oregonians and legislators about gun violence facts, lobby on behalf of bills that will help make our communities safer, and work to prevent the passage of bills that would make it easier for dangerous people to obtain and carry firearms.

About 30,000 people are killed by firearms in the United States every year. More than twice as many are injured. This is a public health crisis of staggering proportions.

Guns are too easily available to felons, fugitives, kids, and people with serious mental health problems. To reduce gun violence, we must make it more difficult for people who cannot lawfully own guns to obtain them.

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Gun Violence Solutions documents why firearm purchaser licensing laws are needed:

“Federal law requires that anyone wishing to purchase a firearm from a federally licensed firearms dealer, such as a gun store, undergo a background check. While this law is important in preventing prohibited individuals from obtaining firearms, it has loopholes that can easily be exploited.

Federal law does not regulate the transfer of guns between private parties, often between sellers at gun shows or who connect through online gun marketplaces. Additionally, current background check law allows a federal firearms licensee to legally sell a firearm three business days after a request for a background check, even if the background check is still pending.² This “default proceed” loophole has allowed thousands of prohibited persons to acquire firearms. In 2021 alone, the FBI reported 5,203 cases where prohibited purchasers bought guns from a licensed dealer because of this loophole.³

Firearm purchaser licensing laws close these two loopholes ensuring that background checks are conducted on anyone seeking to obtain a firearm. While researchers have found that state universal background check laws reduce gun trafficking, they have not found consistent results that universal background checks alone reduce gun violence.⁴ The enhancements provided by Firearm Purchaser Licensing laws are an integral supplement to universal background check laws allowing law enforcement to properly investigate prospective purchasers before a sale is made.”

<https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/solutions/firearm-purchaser-licensing/in-depth-on-permit-to-purchase>

The Ceasefire Oregon Board supports HB 4145 for the following reasons, among others:

- Expands definitions of unlawful conduct that rule out purchase of guns to include all violent misdemeanors, not only those related to domestic violence.
- Enhances equity in the permit-to-purchase process by requiring that annual reports of denied applications must include racial and gender data by county.
- Privacy protections: Personal information collected during the permit application and background check process and stored in the permit holders' database will not be released as a public record.

Only authorized government employees will process FBI background check requests.

- Processing time: The bill clarifies which agencies may accept applications for a firearm purchase permit.

Permit agents will have up to 60 days (instead of 30) to issue a permit or send a written denial explaining the reason.

- Firearm safety training: Applicants may meet the safety training requirement through alternative options, not only a traditional firearm safety class.
- Court injunction protection: A person may not be prosecuted for conduct that occurred while enforcement of the Large Capacity Magazine (LCM) law was blocked by a court order.
- If the Oregon Supreme Court lifts or reverses the injunction, gun dealers and manufacturers will have 180 days to comply with LCM restrictions.